

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. An application for providing access to media files on a digital device, the application comprising a computer readable storage medium having computer-readable  
5 program instructions embodied in the medium, the computer-readable program instructions comprising:

first instructions for generating a media view that segments time into time units; and

10 second instructions for generating a topographic view that graphically represents media file quantity in relation to the time units presented in the media view.

2. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating a topographic view that graphically represents media file quantity in relation to the time units presented in the media view further defines media file quantity as the number of  
15 media files.

3. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating a topographic view that graphically represents media file quantity in relation to the time units presented in the media view further defines media file quantity as the storage  
20 volume of media files.

4. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating a topographic view that graphically represents media file quantity in relation to the time units presented in the media view and graphically distinguishes between media files of a  
25 chosen media file characteristic.

5. The application of Claim 4, wherein the second instructions for generating a topographic view that graphically distinguishes between media files of a chosen media file characteristic and the chosen media file characteristic is media file type.  
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6. The application of Claim 4, wherein the second instructions for generating a topographic view that graphically distinguishes between media files of a chosen media file characteristic and the chosen media characteristic is defined in media file metadata.

5 7. The application of Claim 4, wherein the second instructions for generating a topographic view that graphically distinguishes between media files of a chosen media file characteristic further comprises a media file characteristic chosen from the group consisting of media file size, event related to the media file, media file author, media file title and media file keyword.

10 8. The application of Claim 1, wherein the first instructions for generating a media view that segments time into time units further comprises time units chosen from the group consisting of minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, decades and centuries.

15 9. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating a topographic view further includes generating a baseline representation for dividing the graphical representations into more than one portion of the topographic view.

20 10. The application of Claim 7, wherein the second instructions for generating a topographic view that includes generating a baseline representation further includes generating a baseline representation that provides for dividing the graphical representations into more than one portion of the topographic view based on a chosen distinguishing media file characteristic.

25 11. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating a topographic view further includes instructions for generating a zoom mechanism that provides for a detailed graphical representation of media files.

30 12. The application of Claim 11, wherein the second instructions for generating a zoom mechanism further provides for the zoom mechanism that provides for

a detailed graphical representation of media files and the ability to access the media files via the detailed graphical representation.

13. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating  
5 a topographic view further includes instructions for generating a focus mechanism that provides for the media files to be previewed.

14. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating  
a topographic view further includes instructions for generating lenses for identifying  
10 areas within the topographic view that include results of a search of the media files.

15. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating  
a topographic view further includes instructions for generating highlighted areas within  
the topographic view that identify areas of user interest.

16. A digital device, the device comprising:  
a processing unit that executes computer-readable program instructions for  
accessing media files, the computer-readable program instructions comprising:  
first instructions for generating a media view that segments time  
20 into time units, and  
second instructions for generating a topographic view that  
graphically represents media file quantity in relation to the time units presented in  
the media view; and  
a display in communication with the processing unit that presents a  
25 combined view of the time bar and topographic view.

17. The digital device of Claim 16, wherein the processing unit that executes  
computer-readable program instructions for accessing media files, the computer-readable  
program instructions comprising second instructions for generating a topographic view  
30 that graphically represents media file quantity in relation to the time units presented in the

media view and graphically distinguishes between media files of a chosen media file characteristic.

5           18.     A method for providing a topographic view in a media diary application,  
the method comprising the steps of:  
              defining a time span and time units within the time span;  
              determining the quantity of media files in the media diary application that  
are associated with the defined time units; and  
              providing a topographic view that graphically represents the quantity of  
10   media files in the media diary application that are associated with the time units.

          19.     The method of Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:  
              defining a media file characteristic;  
              determining the quantity of media files that include the media file  
15   characteristic;  
              determining the quantity of media files having the characteristic that are  
associated with the defined time units; and  
              providing a topographic view that graphically represents the quantity of  
media files, by media file characteristic, that are associated with the time units.

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          20.     The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of defining a media file  
characteristic further comprises the step of defining the media file characteristic as media  
file type.

25           21.     A method for providing a zoom function in a topographic view of a media  
diary, the method comprising the steps of:  
              selecting a portion of a graphical representation in a first topographic  
view;  
              activating the selected portion of the graphical representation; and  
30           displaying a detailed second topographical view that represents, in more  
detail, the selected portion of the graphical representation of the first topographical view.

22. The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of displaying a detailed second topographical view that represents, in more detail, the selected portion of the graphical representation of the first topographical view further includes the step of providing  
5 detailed representations of the media files associated with the selected portion of the first topographic view.

23. The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of providing detailed representations of the media files associated with the selected portion of the first  
10 topographic view further includes activating the detailed representations of the media files to access the media files.

24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of selecting a zoom scale prior to activating the selected portion of the graphical representation.  
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25. A method for searching for media files within a topographic view of a media diary, the method including the steps of:

providing a media view that defines a time span and time units in conjunction with a first topographic view that graphically represents media files in the  
20 media diary by association with a time unit;

defining a search query that includes at least one item of media file metadata; and

providing for a geometric identifier in the topographic view that overlies a region of the topographic view that includes media files having the searched media file  
25 metadata.

26. The method of Claim 25, further comprising the step of activating the geometric identifier to provide access to one or more media files having the searched media file metadata.  
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27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of activating the geometric identifier to provide access to the media files having the searched media file of interest further comprises the step of activating the geometric identifier to provide a detailed topographic view of the region that provides access to the one or more media files having the media file metadata.

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